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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks.

Assure them that in the fulfillment of their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful in their duties, and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations to fulfill them with integrity.

As the Congress looks to the upcoming holy celebrations of millions of Americans, may they, and may we all, be mindful of Your love for us. May we be faithful stewards not only of Your creation, but also Your desire that all people would be free from whatever inhibits them to be fully alive.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RUIZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a school in my district that is going the extra mile to ensure that our heroes are given the resources and opportunities they deserve.

On April 22, Paul Smith's College in my district will hold the grand opening of their Veterans Resource Center—a project made possible through grants from the Holder Family Foundation and the Fred L. Emerson Foundation. This center will provide vets on campus with an important recreational resource and place to study, as well as house the Paul Smith's College Veteran's Club. Paul Smith's has a proud tradition of service with our Armed Forces dating back to when the campus

was first built during World War II and was used as a U.S. Army Signal Corps training center.

Since then, the school has upheld their commitment to our servicemembers, working with several organizations to ease the transition from service to academia for our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on the House floor today to recognize the special work being done for our heroes by Paul Smith's College.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT SHIRLEY POWELL

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Shirley Powell of Cathedral City exemplified our Nation's highest values of dedication to public service. She passed away last month, March 2017. Her legacy of leadership is a constant source of inspiration. I am humbled to have called her my constituent and my friend.

Chief Master Sergeant Powell joined the U.S. Air Force in 1962, where she served for 38 years. She opened important doors for women in our military. She was the first woman to have achieved the rank of chief master sergeant in the Air National Guard 146th Airlift Wing and to be selected for the special duty of first sergeant.

She continued to serve the Coachella Valley after her retirement in numerous veterans' organizations. She became a life member of the Palm Springs Air Force Association, and was also selected to serve on the Riverside County Veterans' Advisory Committee.

She served on my Congressional Veterans' Advisory Board and Military Academy Nominations Committee. Her advice and counsel were invaluable to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Powell and

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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add her story and contributions to our Nation's record. Her distinguished career is an example of excellence, dedication, and service to our Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL HAIN OF NITTANY MEDIA

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Hain, general manager and chief technology officer of Nittany Media, for being named Independent Tech Executive of the Year by Cablefax magazine.

Michael was a second-generation executive. Nittany Media is a locally owned and operated cable provider that has served rural Pennsylvania since 1957. They are credited with bringing the internet to some very rural areas as early as 1997.

His parents, Harry and Anna Hain, founded the business, and Michael has been actively involved since he was a child. He climbed his first cable tower at age 3 during a neighbor's barbecue. Michael told a news outlet: "When the other kids were going down to the river fishing, my dad and I were going up to the mountain with an inch-and-a-quarter mast with an antenna. And we were fishing too; fishing for a distant signal."

A love for cable runs deep for Michael Hain.

On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I extend my sincere congratulations to Michael Hain of Nittany Media for this outstanding achievement.

APPOINT A SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE RUSSIAN CONNECTIONS

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, another week in Washington and, yet, more evidence mounts; our election and the White House have been compromised by Russia.

This week we learned one of the President's informal advisers—a mercenary who founded the company Blackwater—met secretly with a Putin representative and attempted to establish back-channel conversations between the Trump administration and Russia.

Remember, this comes after we found out the President's son-in-law met with Russian banking officials. It comes after it was reported that the Attorney General likely perjured himself before Congress about his own meeting with Russians.

Sadly, it comes after there were chemical weapons attacks in Syria. Let us recall that Assad's closest ally in that horrific civil war has been—you guessed it—Russia.

It is imperative we unearth all of the links between this administration, Russia, and Russia's hacking of our election. The House Intelligence Committee's investigation has become a farce. We need a thorough, independent investigation. Appoint a special counsel now.

HONORING THE PERRY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Perry Technical Institute, a technical school serving the students of the Yakima Valley in Washington's Fourth Congressional District.

Since its founding, Perry Tech has focused on educating and preparing students for real-world employment in fields such as welding, instrumentation, carpentry, machining, and manufacturing. These programs provide students practical experience as well as skills in time management, goal setting, and financial literacy.

A recent study of economic mobility conducted of nearly 700 technical schools from around the Nation ranked Perry Tech number one for having graduates move from low income into the top 20 percent of earners. With an astoundingly high job placement rate of 93 percent, it is clear that Perry Technical Institute is providing its students with the skills they need to excel in the workplace.

Please join me in celebrating Perry Technical Institute's success.

NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to be a Member of this House and to serve the public. This week I announced that it is National Youth Violence Prevention Week. Preventing youth violence can't happen overnight. It requires change across our society, from our courts to our classrooms.

This week I introduced a package of bills to correct these problems that we have imposed upon our children and our communities. I urge my colleagues to get serious about these issues. Our children are our future. We owe our children every opportunity. We owe our children a system that works with them and for them. It is not a system that is out to get them.

We do not owe our children a system that allows them to be in our streets and to not be safe. For example, to make sure that our children are safe, means that we have safer communities. Right now the United States of America has a criminal justice system that spends over \$80 billion a year to incarcerate men, women, and children.

And who do these adults incarcerated become eventually?

Well, once they were children.

We can correct the system. We are the most incarcerated place on the planet in every sense of the word. We can change this. We must change this for the sake of our communities.

NULLIFY RULE PROMULGATED BY FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help set the record straight on the vote last week to roll back the Federal Communications Commission's flawed internet service provider rules.

Since the internet was created, the Federal Trade Commission has been in charge of online privacy and has been largely successful in this mission. However, last year, the Federal Communications Commission overreached its authority by creating its own set of privacy rules that applied to a small group of internet service providers like Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T.

This is why I joined my colleagues in the House to approve the Congressional Review Act to nullify this redundant rule promulgated by the FCC. The FCC claimed these rules would provide customers with strong security protections, but, in reality, the FCC's rules created confusion, an additional layer of bureaucratic red tape, and a false sense of privacy that did not exist.

In fact, the head of both the FCC and FTC penned a joint op-ed recently supporting Congress' decision. In their own words, we cleared the way to reinstate a rational and effective system for protecting consumer privacy.

CELEBRATING THE SIKH HOLIDAY VAISAKHI

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Sikh community in celebrating Vaisakhi. In the San Joaquin Valley, I have the honor and the privilege to represent many diverse ethnic communities that are part of the mosaic of America.

The Sikh community is the American story, for they are the story of immigrants past and immigrants present that have come from all over the world to establish themselves as Americans and to build a better life for themselves and their family and add value to our country. So I am very proud, among so many ethnic groups, to be representing their interests here in our Nation's Capital.

On April 14, Vaisakhi is recognized by the Sikhs around the world, including thousands in California's San Joaquin Valley. On Vaisakhi, the Sikh